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English C 7

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1.) The women's learning affected Snow Flower and Lily's Relationship in harsh ways. Lily allowed the women's writing to get in the way of comforting her best friend when she needed her. Lily says, "I searched my mind for the right words to write the woman I loved and to my great shame I let the conventions I'd grown up with wrap around my heart as I'd done that day in the palanquin. When I picked up my brush, I retreated to the safety of the formal lines appropriate for a married woman." (See 166). Lily Snow Flower that as women they can only try again, when Snow Flower was depressed about the loss of her baby. Lily let her position as a wife and as Lady Lu get to her head. "In the past, whenever I had been unsure of how to react to my laotong's unhappiness, I pressured her to follow the rules and traditions of the inner realm as a way of combating the bad things that happened in her life. This time I went further by launching a campaign for her to take control of her rooster husband, believing that as a woman born under the sign of the horse she could use her willfulness to change the situation." (See 218) Lily does not give loving comfort when Snow Flower is hurting. Lily gives Snow Flower practical advice. Lily suggests That Snow Flower try to be a better wife and make her mother in law meals. Lily was very hurt by Snow Flowers Letter. Lily had thought Snow Flower had betrayed her and left her to join three sworn sisters. Lily is furious. It wasn't till Snow Flower

was on her deathbed that Lily learned she was wrong. “It was through them my greatest shame. They told me that Snow Flower was not their Sworn Sister.” Lily had misread the letter. Small things in Women’s learning can really have harsh effects on a relationship. Especially this relationship between, Lily and Snow Flower, whether it is letting a title or misreading *Nu Shu* it can have really big effects.

2.) Throughout the book Madame Wang and Lily’s relationship change in significant ways. Lily used to trust, respect, and obey Madame Wang until she discovers the truth. Lily finds out that Madame Wang lied to her about Snow Flower’s Wealth. This affects her feeling and how she thinks of Madame Wang. Madame Wang states, “You must think of me an evil old women,” the matchmaker said, “But you should understand I never lied to your mother or your aunt.” (See 131). Lily tells Madame Wang about the letter that Snow Flower sent her and how she feels betrayed. Lily says, “On the day your niece and I signed our contract you said, ‘No Concubines aloud.’ Do you remember that old women? Now go ask your niece what she has done.” (See 226) This affects both of their perspectives of each other. Being that Snow Flower is Madame Wang’s niece, When Lily receives the letter from Snow Flower it changes not only her view of Snow Flower but her view of Madame Wang. Lily says, “ In my mind she never changed. She had always been an old woman, but on this day I looked at her with a more critical eye.” (See 224) Whether it is a big or little action it can make you look at something or someone in a whole new way that can change your relationship with them.

3.) There are many times that Lily’s emotions at the time colored the story, when Lily received the letter from Snow Flower was one of those many times. When Lily looked back on the letter from Snow Flower, Lily made it seem like Snow Flower had done

something wrong, when in reality Lily had misread the letter. “Was she really talking about love with a sworn sister in our secret fan?” (See 220) Lily’s emotions of anger shows when Lily reflects upon what Snow Flower had done to her not what she had done to Snow Flower. “She seemed to be abandoning our promises in favor of a new relationship with sworn sisters hurt beyond reason.” (See 220) Lily’s emotions did affect her perspective. “But when I see you breaking two hearts, its so sad .I remember the little girl you were.” (See 226) Lily I only giving her perspective of the event. Lily’s emotions color her perspective on how she looks back see past events.

4.)There is a variety of ways Snow Flower could of reacted. Snow Flower always tried to be good enough for Lily. “ She tried to please you in every way” Lotus said.” (See 212) Snow Flower would likely of forgiven Lily because Snow Flower longed acceptance. Snow Flower tried to be someone who could be accepted by Lily. “You demanded that she follow your advice on this and many other things....Then when she did you criticized her.” (See 242) Snow Flower just wanted to please Lily. “You always said that her only worth was giving birth to sons, and she believed you. You told her to try again and she obeyed.” (See 242) Snow Flower wanted to be better and change herself for Lily. Being the obedient and forgiving woman Snow Flower was she would most likely would of forgiven Lily because Snow Flower really cared for Lily even when they were apart.